

Michel Thomas[®] method

Mandarin Chinese

Vocabulary Course

Harold Goodman

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Introduction

Welcome, to those of you who have completed the **Michel Thomas Method Mandarin Chinese courses** and to those of you who are about to experience a uniquely exciting way to learn and improve your Mandarin Chinese!

My name is Rose Lee Hayden, and I had the distinct privilege of working closely with Michel Thomas for several decades, in particular, teaching what he referred to as his 'second phase' language courses. This 'second phase' built upon the structural knowledge of the language that Michel Thomas so brilliantly provided in his foundation courses. As Michel Thomas himself often said, 'I built the house, but it is up to you to decorate it!'

And decorate it we shall in this **Michel Thomas Method: Mandarin Chinese Vocabulary Course** that reinforces and expands on what you have already learned having completed the **Michel Thomas Method Mandarin Chinese courses**. And for those of you who have not done these courses, I urge you to do so. You will be surprised at how painlessly they will teach or reinforce your Mandarin Chinese and will introduce you to a unique method of language learning.

At the outset, let me stress what this course does not attempt to do and how it may differ a little from your previous experiences with the **Michel Thomas Method Mandarin Chinese courses**. First, this course does not and cannot re-teach the original courses, but rather builds directly on them. Therefore, you may wish to review and keep reviewing your **Michel Thomas Method Mandarin Chinese courses** to re-familiarize yourself with structural items and basic vocabulary previously introduced by Harold Goodman.

Second, it is important to state that learning vocabulary is not the same as learning structure, even though this course teaches vocabulary the Michel Thomas way. You may find it helpful to review course content more frequently. But let me reassure you that this more frequent review is no reflection on your ability, but rather relates to the fact that you have moved on to another level of instruction with vocabulary acquisition as its basic goal. Throughout his 'second phase' instruction, Michel Thomas frequently

asked his students to review and reinforce the basics before moving on. Because his methodology is cumulative, you must never rush ahead. Each building block in some way relates to previous content and uses it in a carefully constructed way.

Third, those of you who expect drills of each and every word in a category – family members, days of the week, and so on – don't! Michel Thomas actively discouraged memorization, rote learning, writing out lists and any and all related activities of this type. He knew that we do not learn this way, and that the stress generated by these means actually impedes learning.

I dedicate this course to the memory of Michel Thomas and to all of you who have chosen to build your Mandarin Chinese vocabulary the Michel Thomas way.

*Dr Rose Lee Hayden
Series Editor*

Who was Michel Thomas?



Michel Thomas was head of the Michel Thomas Language Centers and taught languages for over 50 years, primarily in New York, Beverly Hills and London until his recent death, aged 90. A graduate of the Department of Philology at the University of Bordeaux and student of psychology at the Sorbonne, his harrowing wartime experiences escaping Hitler and fighting with the French Resistance made mastering languages a matter of survival for Michel Thomas.

Michel Thomas dedicated his long professional life to probing the learning process. He focused on the teaching and learning of foreign languages as a perfect test case for his revolutionary learning system, one that made him the world's foremost language teacher to the celebrities, diplomats, corporate executives as well as others seeking to acquire or enhance their proficiency in another language.

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What is the Michel Thomas Method?

The Michel Thomas Method is unlike anything you have ever experienced, especially when you compare it with how languages are traditionally taught in schools or universities. It produces startling results within a remarkably short period of time, all without the need for books, drills, memorizing, or homework. Michel Thomas believed that anyone can learn another language having learned their own, and he developed his unique methodology that proved this to be true for many thousands of students.

Learning a language the Michel Thomas way builds proficiency, self-confidence and engages you right from the start. The Michel Thomas Method breaks a language down to its component parts and presents these structures in carefully planned sets of exercises that enable you to reconstruct the language yourself, to form your own sentences that say what you want, when you want. Almost without you realizing it, you will retain and apply what you have learned and will be motivated to learn more. Without the stress of memorization, note taking and homework, you can relax and let language learning take place as nature intended.

But you have to experience the Michel Thomas Method to believe it. Within hours you will be creating sophisticated sentences in a wide variety of situations, as those of you know who have completed the **Michel Thomas language courses**. These courses provided you with functional proficiency in your chosen language and are the foundation upon which this **Michel Thomas Method: Vocabulary Course** series builds, phrase by phrase, the Michel Thomas way.

How did we come to develop this *Michel Thomas Method: Vocabulary Course* series?

With nearly 1 million copies of **Michel Thomas language courses** sold in the UK alone, and with thousands of enthusiasts who never thought they could ever learn another language wanting 'more Michel', we at Hodder Education are particularly pleased to offer this new course series that preserves and extends the language teaching legacy of 'The Language Master', Michel Thomas. Working with us right up to the moment of his death aged 90, Michel Thomas was in the process of creating a series of

vocabulary courses building on his very successful language courses. Reflecting his prior input, this series is the product of a new team of authors and presenters who have either taught for Michel Thomas, or have utilized his methodology in their own classrooms and professional courses.

With this series we hope to provide what Michel Thomas and his ever-expanding number of 'students' would expect of us, both as educational publishers and professionals who love languages, teaching them and learning them. We dedicate this series and others that we will be developing for schools, businesses and individuals from all walks of life to our much-esteemed and beloved 'Language Master', Michel Thomas.

Who is this *Michel Thomas Method: Mandarin Chinese Vocabulary Course* for?

People who have already learned Mandarin Chinese with Michel Thomas

This **Michel Thomas Method: Mandarin Chinese Vocabulary Course** does just what its name suggests: builds on the content Harold Goodman presented in the **Michel Thomas Method Mandarin Chinese Foundation and Advanced courses**. This course covers over 150 words and everyday phrases within the context of essential building blocks already presented by Harold Goodman. You can both reinforce what you have already learned from your **Michel Thomas Method Mandarin Chinese courses** and substantially increase your Mandarin Chinese vocabulary the Michel Thomas way.

People who have learned Mandarin Chinese using other methods

You may have learned Mandarin Chinese before and want to brush up on it for a holiday or business trip. Perhaps you are looking for a new approach to help you with revision or to re-motivate you to dust off your Mandarin Chinese and improve your proficiency. Either way, the **Michel Thomas Method: Mandarin Chinese Vocabulary Course** will introduce you to a unique way of acquiring language proficiency that will provide dozens of helpful ways to build on what you already know. You will be able to increase your vocabulary exponentially, will learn or review over 150 words and

everyday expressions, and will significantly boost your confidence in your ability to speak, listen to and understand Mandarin Chinese.

You may find that it takes a while to get used to the Michel Thomas way of teaching. It is innovative and quite unlike any other method you will have come across. But once you have experienced the excitement of painless learning the Michel Thomas way, you will be hooked!

What does this pack contain?

The pack comprises over five hours of recorded material on CD, plus this User Guide that contains all the concepts, words and phrases presented in the course. In these recordings, Harold Goodman will introduce concepts that you will be learning, one by one, and will present helpful hints and handy tools that you can then use to create your own phrases and increase your Mandarin Chinese proficiency.

How are the recordings best used?

- **Relax!** Make yourself comfortable before playing the recordings and try to let go of the tensions and anxieties traditionally associated with language learning.
- **Do not write or take any notes.** Remove notebooks, pens, dictionaries and anything else associated with traditional, school-based language learning.
- **Do not try to remember.** While participating in the recording and afterwards, it is important that you do not try to memorize specific words or expressions. It is a basic principle of the Michel Thomas Method that the responsibility for the student's learning lies with the teacher. Your learning is based on understanding, and what you understand you don't forget.
- **Interact fully with the recordings.** Use the pause button and respond out loud (or in a whisper, or in your head if you are in a public place) before hearing the correct response. *This is essential.* You do not learn by repetition but by thinking out the answers to each question; it is by your own thought process that you truly learn and retain structure and vocabulary.
- **Give yourself time to think.** You have all the time you need to think through your response. Your pause button is the key to *your* learning!

Be sure to use it. We have inserted standard-length pauses for your responses so as not to waste valuable recording time with long silences.

- **Start at the beginning of the course.** Whatever your existing knowledge of Mandarin Chinese, it is important that you follow the way the Michel Thomas Method builds up your knowledge of the language. The methodology is cumulative and recursive so you must not rush ahead before you feel comfortable that you have mastered a concept, phrase or word. This vocabulary course also encourages you to take additional time to create similar examples of your own to reinforce what is being presented.
- **Do not get annoyed with yourself if you make a mistake.** Mistakes are part of the learning process; as long as you understand why you made the mistake and you have the 'aha' reaction – 'Yes, of course, I understand now' – you are doing just fine. If you made a mistake and you do not understand why, you may have been daydreaming for a few seconds. As noted, the course is structured so that you cannot go on unless you fully understand everything. So just go back a little and pick up where you left off.
- **Stop the recording whenever it suits you.** Breaks in the CD recordings reflect the numbering and content listings in this User Guide. This will help you locate items you wish to review and will enable you to locate where you left off and where you wish to begin once again.

What can I expect to achieve?

The **Michel Thomas Method Mandarin Chinese courses** provided you with a practical and functional use of the spoken language. Using the Michel Thomas Method, this **Mandarin Chinese Vocabulary Course** introduces everyday conversational language that will improve your communication skills in a wide variety of situations, empowered by the ability to create your own sentences and use the language naturally. With this additional practice and review, plus over 150 words covered and the tools to create hundreds more, your proficiency in Mandarin Chinese will be reinforced and strengthened as will your self-confidence and desire to use your newly acquired Mandarin Chinese.

How can I go on to improve further?

Obviously, nothing compares with first-hand contact with native speakers. And while you may not think that this is possible for you, think again. There are most likely many Mandarin Chinese speakers, Mandarin Chinese language clubs and associations in your local area. You need not go to Beijing to find them. A simple advert in the local newspaper or on a relevant website offering to exchange English for Mandarin Chinese instruction may locate someone you will enjoy knowing and practising with – but do think about your own safety before giving away any personal details. As Michel Thomas noted, we learn a lot more about our own language when we learn another.

Michel Thomas also recommended a little daily practice – 10–15 minutes – and knew that this was worth more than several hours of cramming after a period of time has gone by.

One last suggestion here. For really authentic practice, try to listen to radio and television programmes that you may be able to receive if you live in a city or have satellite TV options. Relax and listen for gist, not word by word. You can do it! And little by little you will understand what is being said. We know that you will find it both rewarding and exciting to practise your ever-improving Mandarin Chinese!

What do Michel Thomas' students have to say?

Academy award winning director and actress, **Emma Thompson** (as quoted in *The Guardian*):

'The excitement of learning something new was overwhelming. Michel not only taught me Spanish, he opened my eyes to the possibilities of a completely different kind of learning. Michel takes the burden off the student and upon himself . . . Learning Spanish with Michel was the most extraordinary learning experience of my life – it was unforgettable.'

Irish dance and music sensation, **Michael Flatley** (as quoted in *The Linguist*):

'He [Michel Thomas] was a genius ... a born teacher and thinker.'

Customer feedback on the Michel Thomas Method

'I am writing to congratulate you on the highly original and successful language courses by Michel Thomas; I am currently working on German and French, while my daughter, at my suggestion, has bought the Italian course.'

R. Harris

'I have now finished the eight cassette Italian course and would like to say how pleased I am with it. I am a scientist, with all my neurons in the side of my brain that deals with understanding, and next to none on the side that deals with memory. This has meant my ability to retain vocabulary and learn a language has been about as bad as it comes. Against all odds, the Michel Thomas course has left me with a real sense of achievement, and a tremendous basis for further progress in learning Italian.'

T. A. Whittingham

'He doesn't put words in your mouth, he makes you work out the words to say yourself.'

Angie Harper

User guide

Track listing

Note about transliteration

The Mandarin words are transliterated in this track listing using the *pin-yin* method of Romanization. In this method the tones are represented by marks on the vowels that look like the hand movements that we're using (see pages 20–21):

- flat tone (green thumb out)
- ˊ rising tone (blue finger up)
- ˋ falling and rising tone (red 'V' for victory)
- ˋ falling tone (black finger down)

CD1 Track 1

Introduction.

CD1 Track 2

guò 'to cross, pass time', is added after a repeatable action to indicate 'have you?', e.g. *nǐ qù guò zhōng guó ma?* 'Have you ever been/gone to China?'

To say you 'do not do something' in the present tense, use '*bú* + do something', e.g. *wǒ bú qù nà* 'I don't go there'. To say you 'have not done something' in the past tense, use '*méi* do *guò* something', e.g. *wǒ méi qù guò měi guó* 'I have not been/gone to America.'

niǔ yuē 'New York'

bié de 'other, different'

CD1 Track 3

zhǐ 'only'

gěi 'to give'; *gěi* somebody something 'give somebody something',

e.g. *qǐng gěi wǒ bié de shū* 'Please give me a different book.'

qián 'money', also a popular Chinese surname

CD1 Track 4

shí hou 'time', *shén me shí hou* 'what time?', e.g. *nǐ gěi tā qián de shí hou*

'when you give her money'

gěi somebody *kàn* 'to show to somebody', e.g. *wǒ gěi nǐ kàn* 'I show you';
dōng xi 'things', *zhè xiē dōng xi* 'these things'

CD1 Track 5

kě yǐ 'may'; *dāng rán kě yǐ* 'of course, you may'

jǐ is used to ask how many, usually referring to a smaller quantity such as ten or less. *jǐ* implies a question, so *ma* is not needed at the end of the sentence, e.g. *nǐ jiā yǒu jǐ ge rén* 'How many people are in your family (home)?'

CD1 Track 6

liǎng 'pair of'

hái zi 'children'

nán hái zi 'boy' (where *nán* means male), *nǚ hái zi* 'girl' (where *nǚ* means female)

CD1 Track 7

xiǎo 'little'. It is common to call a young child *xiǎo péng you* 'little friend'. Also to address 20–30-year-olds as "*xiǎo* + surname" in the workplace, e.g. *xiǎo Wáng*, and to address elders as "*lǎo* 'old' + surname", e.g. *lǎo Wáng*

kā fēi guǎn 'coffee shop'

sān 'three', e.g. *nǐ yǒu liǎng ge hái zi hái shì sān ge hái zi* 'Do you have two children or three children?'

CD1 Track 9

yào '(you) will, (you) want', speaking of the future, e.g. *wǒ yào qù nǐ (de) jiā* 'I will go to your house.'

zuò 'to do'

hù zhào 'passport'

dǎ 'hit', e.g. *wǒ yào dǎ diàn huà* 'I will make a phone call = hit a telephone.'

CD1 Track 10

bào 'newspaper'

cóng 'from (somewhere)', *zuò* 'by means of (vehicle)', *dào* 'to, towards (somewhere)', e.g. *wǒ cóng běi jīng zuò huǒ chē dào shàng hǎi* 'I am taking a train from Beijing to Shanghai.'

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CD1 Track 11

chē 'vehicle'; *huǒ chē* 'train = fire vehicle'; *fēi jī* 'airplane = fly machine'; *qì chē* 'car = vapour vehicle'; *gōng gōng qì chē* 'bus = public vapour vehicle'

CD1 Track 12

kāi chē 'to drive a vehicle'; *xiāng gǎng* 'Hong Kong'
běi jīng 'Beijing, northern capital', *běi* 'north'; *nán jīng* 'Nanjing, southern capital', *nán* 'south'; *xīān* 'Xian, western peace', *xī* 'west'; *shān dōng* 'Shangdong province', *dōng* 'east'

CD2 Track 1

gāo sù 'to tell, inform, let know'

le is used to indicate that something is done, e.g. *wǒ mǎi le liǎng ge qì chē* 'I bought two cars.' Another use of *le* is to indicate a change from the way things were.

lèi 'tired', e.g. *wǒ lèi le* 'I am tired.'

CD2 Track 2

kuài 'about to, almost, soon to happen', e.g. *tā zuò huǒ chē kuài dào niǔ*

yuē le 'He took the train and just arrived in New York'

cuò 'bad, mistake'; *cuò* can also be used as a verb, 'to make a mistake', e.g. *wǒ cuò le* 'I am mistaken, I made a mistake.'

CD2 Track 3

bēi 'cup', *yī bēi chá* 'a cup of tea'

CD2 Track 4

hǎo chī 'very tasty = good eat'; *hǎo hē* 'good drink'

wǎn 'late'

CD2 Track 5

yīng gāi 'should'

chà bu dīo 'about the same'

yí yàng 'the same, just like'; *bù yí yàng* 'different, not the same'

CD2 Track 6

piào 'ticket'; *fēi jī piào* 'airline ticket'; *huǒ chē piào* 'train ticket'

mài 'to sell': be careful not to mix up *mài* 'to sell' and *mǎi* 'to buy'.

Tones matter.

CD2 Track 7

sì 'four'; *wǔ* 'five'; *liù* 'six'

CD2 Track 8

kuài colloquial term for a unit of currency

rén mǐn bì 'Chinese money': literally 'people's currency': currency of China as distinct from Taiwan where the New Taiwan Dollar (*Tai bì*) is used.

shí 'ten'

CD2 Track 9

sì shí 'forty', *wǔ shí* 'fifty'; *sì shí sān* 'forty-three'

èr 'two'; use *èr* in telephone numbers, dates or counting, e.g. *èr shí* 'twenty'. Otherwise use *liǎng*, e.g. *liǎng ge hái zi* 'a pair of children'.

CD2 Track 10

xīng qī 'week' (start + period of time); *xīng qī yī* 'Monday'; *xīng qī èr* 'Tuesday'; *xīng qī sān* 'Wednesday'; *xīng qī sì* 'Thursday'; *xīng qī wǔ* 'Friday'; *xīng qī liù* 'Saturday'

CD2 Track 11

xīng qī tiān/rì 'Sunday'. *rì* = sun, e.g. *xīng qī tiān jiàn* 'See you on Sunday.'

qī 'seven'; *bā* 'eight'; *jiǔ* 'nine'

xià ge 'next'; *shàng ge* 'last'

hào 'number', e.g. *diàn huà hào* 'telephone number'

CD2 Track 12

líng 'zero'

nián 'year'

yuè 'month'; *yī yuè* 'January'; *èr yuè* 'February'; *sān yuè* 'March'; *sì yuè* 'April'; *wǔ yuè* 'May'; *liù yuè* 'June'; *qī yuè* 'July'; *bā yuè* 'August'; *jiǔ yuè* 'September'; *shí yuè* 'October'; *shí yī yuè* 'November'; *shí èr yuè* 'December'

CD2 Track 13

When giving a date start with the biggest unit.

CD3 Track 1

bǎi 'hundred', e.g. *sān bǎi* 'three hundred'
shǎo 'few'
fáng jiān 'room'

CD3 Track 2

duō 'more', *duō shǎo* 'how much', e.g. *duō shǎo qián* 'how much money?'
 referring to any number, especially larger numbers
guì 'expensive'

CD3 Track 3

qiān 'thousand'
wàn 'ten thousand'
bǎi wàn 'million': literally 'one hundred ten thousand'

CD3 Track 4

dǒng 'understand'; *kàn de dǒng* 'understand by seeing', e.g. *wǒ kàn de dǒng zhè ge zì* 'I understand (by seeing) this character.' *zì* 'word'. *wǒ kàn bù dǒng zhè ge zì* 'I do not understand (by seeing) this character.'

CD3 Track 5

tīng de dǒng 'understand by hearing', e.g. *tā shuō zhōng wén de shí hou wǒ tīng bù dǒng* 'When he speaks Chinese I can't understand.'
tīng shuō 'heard'

CD3 Track 6

diǎn 'o'clock'
shàng wǔ 'morning, a.m.'. Larger units of time and dates come before smaller ones, e.g. *wǒ men yīng gāi shàng wǔ sān diǎn qù* 'We should go at 3 a.m.'
xià wǔ 'afternoon, p.m.'

CD3 Track 7

xiǎo shí 'hour', e.g. *yí ge xiǎo shí le* 'for one hour'
yǐ hòu 'after, behind'

CD3 Tracks 8 and 9

bàn 'half', e.g. *wǒ men yí ge bàn xiǎo shí yǐ hòu qù* 'We will go after one and a half hours'; *wǒ men néng bu néng shàng wǔ shí diǎn bàn yǐ hòu qù?* 'Can we go after ten thirty a.m.?''

CD3 Track 10

kě xī 'it's a pity'
yǐ qián 'before'
fēi jī chǎng 'airport'

CD3 Track 12

yǒu qián 'rich = have money' e.g. *tā hěn yǒu qián* 'She is very rich.'
bú yào qián 'free'

CD3 Track 13

fù qián 'to pay money', e.g. *wǒ yào fù nǐ hěn duō qián* 'I will pay you a lot of money.'
yào bù rán 'otherwise'

CD3 Track 14

xǐ huān 'to like to; to like something'; *dōu xǐ huān* 'both like to'

CD3 Track 15

zhǎo 'to seek, look for'; *zài zhǎo* 'to be seeking' (at this moment)

CD3 Track 16

bāng someone to do something 'help someone to do something', e.g. *nǐ néng bāng wǒ kāi chē ma?* 'Can you help me drive the car?'
bāng someone *máng* 'to help someone out' e.g. *nǐ néng bu néng bāng wǒ máng* 'Can you help me out?'

CD4 Track 1

xiū xi 'to rest'

CD4 Track 2

chuáng 'bed'; *xiǎo chuáng* 'small bed'; *dà chuáng* 'big bed'
děng 'to wait'

CD4 Track 3

wài 'out'; wài guó 'foreign = out country'
 wài mian 'outside'; zài wài mian '(to be) outside'; wǒ men fàn diàn wài
 mian 'outside our hotel'
 lǐ mian 'inside', e.g. wǒ jīn tiān zài lǐ mian chī fàn 'I will eat inside today.'

CD4 Track 4

zuì 'the best, most' e.g. zuì hǎo de cài 'the best food'; zuì dà de fáng jiān
 'the biggest room'

CD4 Track 5

hé someone shuō huà 'to speak with someone', e.g. wǒ yào hé nǐ de péng
 you shuō huà 'I will speak with your friend.'
 méi yǒu rén 'no one'

CD4 Track 6

lǎo bǎn 'boss, someone in charge'
 jiǔ 'wine'; hē jiǔ 'to drink wine'; hē chá 'to drink tea'

CD4 Track 7

pí jiǔ 'beer'; yì bēi pí jiǔ 'a cup of beer'
 shén me yàng de 'what kind of...', e.g. nǐ yào shén me yàng de pí jiǔ?
 'What kind of beer do you want?'
 wài guó pí jiǔ 'foreign beer'

CD4 Track 8

shén me dōu 'everything', e.g. tā shén me dōu néng zuò 'She can do
 everything'; tā nán hái zi shén me dōu chī 'Her boy eats everything.'
 shén me something dōu 'every specific something', e.g. tā shén me cài
 dōu yào chī 'He wants to eat every food.'

CD4 Track 9

shén me de 'so on, etc', e.g. wǒ xǐ huān běi jīng cài, shàng hǎi cài, 'I like
 Beijing food, Shanghai food, etc.'

CD4 Track 10

shén me dōu bù 'not anything', e.g. *wǒ shén me dōu bù xǐ huān* 'I don't like anything'; *tā shén me dōu bù mǎi* 'She does not buy anything.'
méi shén me 'don't worry, it is nothing'

CD4 Track 11

huò zhě 'or' (in a positive sentence), e.g. *qǐng gěi wǒ yí ge shū huò zhě yí ge bào* 'Please give me a book or a newspaper'. *hái shì* also means 'or' when used in a question sentence, e.g. *zhè liǎng ge shū yí yàng hái shì bù yí yàng?* 'Are these two books the same or different?'

CD4 Tracks 12 and 13

yí dìng 'definitely, certainly', e.g. *tā jīn tiān yí dìng yào lái* 'She definitely shall come today.'

zǒu 'walk, go, depart', e.g. *Yíng háng zěn me zǒu?* 'How do we go to the bank?'; *zǒu lù* 'walk (on the) street'

CD4 Track 14

zhàn 'stop, station'; *shàng hǎi huǒ chē zhàn* 'Shanghai train stop'
bàn 'to solve a problem'; *zěn me bàn?* 'what do we do?, what's to be done?'

CD4 Track 15

bàn fǎ 'method, way of doing something'; *hěn hǎo de bàn fǎ* 'very good method'

méi (yǒu) bàn fǎ '(There's) nothing to be done about it.'

CD4 Track 16

yǐ jīng 'already', e.g. *wǒ yǐ jīng gěi nǐ le* 'I already gave it to you.'

jiǔ 'passage of time, a long time passed'; *duō jiǔ le* 'how long have...', e.g. *nǐ xué xí zhōng wén duō jiǔ le?* 'How long have you studied Chinese?'

CD4 Track 17

ná 'to take something'

duō 'more'; *duō yì diǎnr* 'a bit more'; *duō yì diǎnr fàn* 'a bit more rice'

Conclusion

Learning the tones using hand movements

Mandarin has four tones, plus a neutral non-tone, which are critical for communication. While there is considerable leeway for differences in pronunciation (many Chinese learn Mandarin as a second language) there is very little for tones. If your tone is off you won't be understood. Tones, when made user-friendly, are actually quite simple to grasp and integrate into your learning.

The method for learning the tones* which you will experience in this course is specifically designed to address all styles of language learning. It will permit your central nervous system to permanently create pathways that reflect your personal learning style (visual, kinaesthetic, auditory, etc.) and support you in effortless recall and usage of the correct tone at the proper moment in your communication. It works on a subconscious level. You will very quickly find that you are using the movements as a natural part of your learning. These movements work. They have been tested and refined on students without any previous knowledge of Mandarin from many different backgrounds and age levels (teens to the elderly). I encourage you to allow your hands to move with the movements. For some of you that will be essential. For others, this will be less essential. Trust whatever helps you. It will work for you as you permit it to do so.

In this method of teaching tones, each movement is linked to a tone and colour. Romanized Mandarin (*pin-yin*) is written with four distinct tones, which are shown with marks over the affected vowel. These marks are shown in brackets below. The tones are generally listed in the following order when taught and when words are listed in a dictionary.

* patent pending

First tone: (ˉ) long, steady tone. **Colour:** Green.
Movement: Thumb out to side with closed fist.
Example: *zhōng* ('middle').



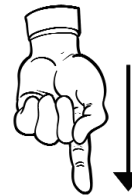
Second tone: (ˊ) rising tone. **Colour:** Blue.
Movement: Index finger pointing up.
Example: *rén* ('person').



Third tone: (ˇ) falling–rising tone. This tone actually resembles a tick mark (UK) or check mark (US) (✓). It starts rather low, goes down a bit and then rises up to the level of the green tone. Please pay close attention to the Chinese native speaker's illustration of this tone. **Colour:** Red.
Movement: Closed fist with index and middle fingers forming a V and pointing up.
Example: *wǒ* ('I, me').



Fourth tone: (ˋ) falling tone. **Colour:** Black.
Movement: Index finger pointing down.
Example: *shì* ('to be, am, is, are').



Neutral non-tone: toneless. **Colour:** None.
Movement: Closed fist.
Example: *ma* (question marker).



Words introduced in the Advanced course

ba indicates suggestion of agreement

bú kè qǐ 'don't be polite'

bú xiè 'don't thank me'

cān guǎn 'restaurant'

cài 'food, dish'

chá 'tea'

chī fàn 'to eat'

cì 'times' (one time, two times, the first time, an occasion)

dāng rán 'of course'

dān wèi 'workplace'

diàn huà 'telephone (electrical speech)'

dǒng 'to comprehend, understand'

dòu fu 'tofu'

duì bu qǐ 'sorry'

è 'hungry'

fàn diàn 'hotel'

hái shì 'or' (used in question sentences)

hǎo 'OK'

hǎo bu hǎo 'OK?, is that OK?'

hǎo chī 'delicious, tasty (good eat)'

hǎo kàn 'pretty (good look)'

hē 'to drink'

huà 'spoken language'

jiào 'to be called'

jué de 'to feel, think'

kā fēi 'coffee'

kuài 'fast'

lǎo 'elder'

mǎi dōng xi 'to buy something (go shopping)'

méi guān xi 'never mind, does not matter'

méi wèn tí 'no problem'

méi yǒu 'did not (do something in the past)'

miàn 'slow'

míng tiān 'tomorrow'

míng zì 'name'

nǎ 'which?'

nǎ ge 'which one?'

nǎ li response to a compliment to express politeness

nǎ xiē 'which of these?'

qǐng 'please'

shén me shí hòu 'when?, what time?'

shéi de 'whose?'

shī fu 'mate, buddy'

shí hòu 'time'

wǎn fàn 'evening food, supper'
wǎn shàng 'evening'
wèn tí 'problem, question'

xiē plural marker instead of ge (zhè
xiē rén 'these men')
xué xí 'to study, learn'

yì bēi chá 'a cup of tea'
yín háng 'bank (silver money firm)'
yǒu méi yǒu 'is there...?',
do you have...?'
yǒu yì si 'interesting'
yú 'fish'

zěn me 'how?'
zěn me yàng 'how is it going?,
what do you think of...?,
how about...?'
zuó tiān 'yesterday'

Words introduced in the Vocabulary course

<i>bā</i> 'eight'	<i>diàn tī</i> 'lift, elevator = electric stairs'
<i>bǎi</i> 'hundred'	<i>dōng</i> 'east'
<i>bǎi wàn</i> 'million'	<i>dǒng</i> 'to comprehend, understand'
<i>bàn</i> 'half'	<i>duō</i> 'more'
<i>bàn</i> 'to solve a problem'	<i>duō jiǔ le</i> 'how long have...?'
<i>bàn fǎ</i> 'method, way of doing something'	<i>duō shǎo</i> 'how much?, how many?' (referring to any number, especially a larger number)
<i>bāng</i> to do something 'to help to do something'	
<i>bāng</i> someone <i>máng</i> 'to help someone out'	<i>èr</i> 'two'
<i>bào</i> 'newspaper'	<i>fáng jiān</i> 'room'
<i>bēi</i> 'cup'	<i>fēi jī</i> 'airplane = fly machine'
<i>běi</i> 'north'	<i>fēi jī chǎng</i> 'airport'
<i>bié de</i> 'other, different'	<i>fù qián</i> 'to pay money'
<i>bú yào qián</i> 'free'	<i>gào sù</i> 'to tell, inform, let know'
<i>bù yí yàng</i> 'different'	<i>gěi</i> 'to give'
<i>chà bù dūo</i> 'about the same'	<i>gěi</i> somebody <i>kàn</i> 'to show to somebody'
<i>chē</i> 'vehicle'	<i>gōng gōng qì chē</i> 'bus = shared vapour vehicle'
<i>chuáng</i> 'bed'	<i>guì</i> 'expensive'
<i>cóng</i> 'from'	<i>guò</i> 'cross, pass time'
<i>dǎ</i> 'hit'	<i>hái zi</i> 'children'
<i>dà jiā</i> 'everyone, all'	<i>hào</i> 'number' (telephone number)
<i>dà jiā hǎo</i> 'Hello, everyone.' (a way to say 'Hello' to or begin speaking to any group)	<i>hé</i> someone <i>shuō huà</i> 'to speak with someone'
<i>dān wèi</i> 'company, workgroup'	<i>hù zhào</i> 'passport'
<i>dào</i> 'to, toward'	<i>huài</i> 'broken, bad'
<i>děng</i> 'to wait'	<i>huǒ chē</i> 'train = fire vehicle'
<i>diǎn</i> 'o'clock'	

<i>huò zhě</i> 'or' (in positive sentence)	<i>nán</i> 'south'
<i>jǐ</i> 'how many?' (referring to a relatively small quantity)	<i>nán hái zi</i> 'boy = male child'
<i>jiǔ</i> 'nine'	<i>nián</i> 'year'
<i>jiǔ</i> 'wine'	<i>niǔ yuē</i> 'New York'
<i>jiǔ</i> 'passage of time, a long time passed'	<i>nǚ hái zi</i> 'girl = female child'
<i>kā fēi guǎn</i> 'coffee shop'	<i>pí jiǔ</i> 'beer'
<i>kāi chē</i> 'to drive a car'	<i>piào</i> 'ticket'
<i>kàn de dǒng</i> 'to understand by seeing'	<i>qī</i> 'seven'
<i>kě xī</i> 'it's a pity'	<i>qì chē</i> 'car = vapour vehicle'
<i>kě yǐ</i> 'may'	<i>qián</i> 'money'
<i>kǒng pà</i> 'afraid that..., perhaps...'	<i>qiān</i> 'thousand'
<i>kuài</i> 'about to, almost'	<i>rán hòu</i> 'then' (after some time has passed)
<i>kuài</i> 'unit of currency' (colloquial term)	<i>rì</i> 'sun'
<i>lǎo bǎn</i> 'boss, person in charge'	<i>sān</i> 'three'
<i>le</i> sentence + <i>le</i> represents something changes	<i>sì</i> 'four' (unlucky number: same sound as <i>sǐ</i> 'death', different tone)
<i>lèi</i> 'tired'	<i>shàng ge</i> 'last'
<i>lǐ mian</i> 'inside'	<i>shàng wǔ</i> 'a.m., morning'
<i>liǎng</i> 'pair of'	<i>shǎo</i> 'few, less'
<i>líng</i> 'zero'	<i>shén me de</i> 'so on, etc.'
<i>liù</i> 'six'	<i>shén me dōu</i> 'everything' (non-specific)
<i>mài</i> 'to sell'	<i>shén me</i> something <i>dōu</i> 'every specific thing'
<i>méi shén me</i> 'don't worry, it's nothing'	<i>shén me yàng de</i> 'what kind of...?'
<i>méi (yǒu) bàn fǎ</i> 'there's nothing to be done about it'	<i>shí</i> 'ten'
<i>méi yǒu rén</i> 'no one'	<i>shí hou</i> 'time'
<i>ná</i> 'to take something'	<i>shuì (jiào)</i> 'to sleep'

tīng de dǒng 'to understand
from hearing'
tīng shuō 'heard'

wài 'out'
wài guó 'foreign'
wài mian 'outside'
wǎn 'late'
wàn 'ten thousand'
wǔ 'five'

xī 'west'
xǐ huan 'to like to do something'
xià ge 'next'
xià wǔ 'afternoon, p.m.'
xiāng gǎng 'Hong Kong'
xiǎo 'little'
xiǎo shí 'hour'
xīng qī 'week'
xīng qī èr 'Tuesday'
xīng qī liù 'Saturday'
xīng qī rì/tiān 'Sunday'
xīng qī sān 'Wednesday'
xīng qī sì 'Thursday'
xīng qī yī 'Monday'
xīng qī wǔ 'Friday'
xiū xi 'to rest'

yào 'will, shall'
yào bù rán 'otherwise'
yí dìng 'definitely, certainly'
yǐ hòu 'after, behind'
yǐ jīng 'already'
yǐ qián 'before'
yí yàng 'the same, just like'
yīng gāi 'should'

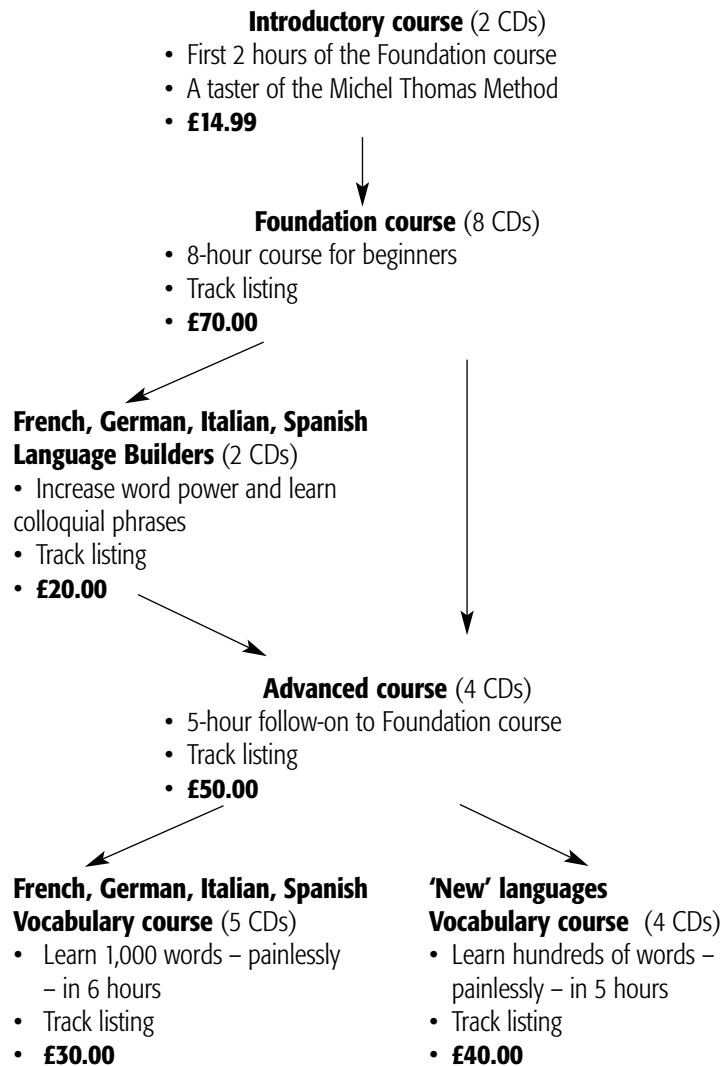
yòng 'to use'
yǒu qián 'rich'
yǒu yòng 'useful'
yuè 'month'

zěn me bàn? 'what's to be done?'
zhàn 'stop, station'
zhǎo 'to seek, look for'
zhǐ 'only'
zì 'word'
zǒu 'to walk, go, depart'
zuì 'most'
zuì hào 'very best'
zuò 'to do'
zuò 'by means of (different
character from *zuò* 'to do')'
zùo 'to sit down'

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